

BOROUGH
OF
PONTFRACT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1961

B O R O U G H
O F
P C N T E F R A C T

A N N U A L R E P O R T
O F T H E
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
F O R T H E Y E A R
1961

B Y
J. F. FRASER
M. B., B. S., D. P. H., D. Obst., R. C. O. G.

Medical Officer's Section,
Health Department,
Baghill House,
Walkergate,
Pontefract.

To:- The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Pontefract.

Lady and Gentlemen,


I have the honour to present for your information and consideration,
a Report on the Health and Health Services of the Borough during the year 1961.

The Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector dealing with
the Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough, Housing and the Inspection and
Supervision of Food Supplies, is complementary to this Report.

For your information, certain details of the personal health
services administered by the County Council are included.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

P O N T E F R A C T B O R O U G H
MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE - 1961.

Chairman: Ald. B. Wood.

Deputy Chairman: Cr. G.E. Poppleton.

Ald. J. Blackburn. O.B.E.

Cr. R. Cunningham.

Cr. J.T. Holmes.

Cr. W.F. Horner.

Ald. F.W. Lane.

Cr. E.S.W. Marr.

Cr. Mrs. V. Pritchard. (Mayor).

Cr. D. Robinson.

Cr. R.G. Stringer.

Cr. C.A. Wileman.

P A R T O N E

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of the Borough: 4,865 Acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population: 27, 190.

Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1961) according to the rate books: 8,090.

Rateable Value: 1961 - £298,105.

Sum represented by penny rate: 1961 - £1,285.

VITAL STATISTICS. (Registrar-General's - Registered during the year).

The figures in brackets are the corresponding ones for 1960.

BIRTHS

<u>Live births.</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate.	230	(282)	262	(237)	492	(519)
Illegitimate.	11	(15)	10	(9)	21	(24)
	<u>241</u>	<u>(297)</u>	<u>272</u>	<u>(246)</u>	<u>513</u>	<u>(543)</u>

Crude birth rate per 1000 estimated civilian population:- 18.9 (20.7)

Adjusted birth rate per 1000 estimated civilian population:- 17.9 (20.1)

Percentage of illegitimate births:- 4.09 (4.42).

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	12	(8)	4	(6)	16	(14)
Illegitimate.	1	(-)	-	(-)	1	(-)
	<u>13</u>	<u>(8)</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>(6)</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>(14)</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births:- 33.11 (25.1)

Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population:- 0.63 (0.534)

<u>DEATHS.</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>	
All age groups	153	(172)	134	(142)	287	(314)

<u>Infants under one year.</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate.	10	(10)	8	(4)	18	(14)
Illegitimate.	-	(-)	2	(1)	2	(1)
	<u>10</u>	<u>(10)</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>(5)</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>(15)</u>

MATERNAL DEATHS. Nil (Nil).

Death Rates.

Crude Death rate per 1,000 population:-	10.6 (12.0)
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 population:-	12.6 (12.9)
All Infants per 1,000 live births:-	39.0 (27.6)
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births:-	36.59 (26.97)
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births:-	95.24 (41.67)
Maternal deaths per 1,000 live and still births:-	Nil (1.80)

The Principle causes of death are set out in the following Table:-

TABLE I.

Cause of Death:-	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis Respiratory.	3	-	3
Meningococcal Infections.	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	5	3	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	7	2	9
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast.	-	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus.	-	4	4
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	5	16	21
Diabetes.	-	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	29	31	60
Coronary Disease, Angina.	26	16	42
Hypertension with Heart Disease.	1	1	2
Other Heart Disease.	11	14	25
Other Circulatory Disease.	3	6	9
Influenza.	1	-	1
Pneumonia.	7	6	13
Bronchitis.	22	8	30
Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	2	-	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea.	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	-	1	1
Congenital Malformations.	4	2	6
Other defined and ill-defined Diseases.	17	15	32
Motor Vehicle Accidents.	4	1	5
All other Accidents.	4	2	6
Suicide.	1	-	1
Totals:-	153	134	287

The local death rate during the past 12 years is shown in the following Table:-

<u>Years</u>	<u>Death Rate.</u>
1950-1952	14.7
1953	16.2
1954	10.5
1955	9.2
1956	9.2
1957	9.7
1958	20.4
1959	11.2
1960	12.0
1961	10.6

Infant Mortality.

The following Table gives causes of Infant Deaths during the year 1961, classified into age groups:-

TABLE II

Cause of Death:	Age Groups							All ages Under 1 year		
	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks	3-4 wks	1-3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	M	F	Total
Prematurity.	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pulmonary Atelectasis.	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	2	5
Adrenaline Haemorrhage and Fulminating Infection.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Adrenaline Haemorrhage Septicemia	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Congenital Heart Disease.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Anencephaly	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Acute Bronchiolitis.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Inadequate attention at Birth.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals:-	17	-	1	1	-	-	1	10	10	20

COMPARISON OF PONTEFRACT VITAL STATISTICS WITH OTHER WEST RIDING AREAS,
THE WEST RIDING ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY AND ENGLAND AND WALES.

TABLE III.

	Pontefract Borough	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts.	West Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provisional figures).
<u>BIRTH RATE</u> (Per 1,000 estimated population).				
Crude Rate.	18.9	16.7	17.2	17.4
Adjusted Rate.	17.9	16.9	17.4	-
<u>DEATH RATE</u> (Per 1,000 estimated population).				
Crude Rate	10.6	12.8	12.1	-
Adjusted Rate.	12.6	13.7	13.4	-
Infective & Para. Dis. Excl. Tub. but incl. Syphl. and other V.D.	0.04	0.05	0.05	*
Tuberculosis Respiratory.	0.11	0.06	0.06	0.07
Tuberculosis Other.	-	-	-	0.01
Tuberculosis - All forms.	0.11	0.06	0.07	0.07
Cancer.	1.69	2.09	1.98	2.16
Vascular Lesions of the nervous system.	2.21	1.97	1.84	*
Heart & Circulatory Diseases	2.87	4.79	4.50	*
Respiratory Diseases.	1.69	1.76	1.64	*
Maternal Mortality. (per 1,000 live & still births).	-	0.30	0.27	0.33
Perinatal Mortality.	62.3	33.5	34.2	*
Neonatal Mortality.	33.1	16.0	16.5	15.5
Infant Mortality.	39.0	24.2	24.6	21.4
Still Births (per 1,000 live & still births).	32.1	19.7	20.2	18.7

* Figures not available.

P A R T T W O

PREV. LENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIVE AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following Table gives details of the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

TABLE IV.

Disease.	Jan/ Mar.	Apr/ Jun.	Jul/ Sept.	Oct/ Dec.	Total	Deaths	Number of Cases Admitted to Hosp.
Scarlet Fever	10	3	3	5	21	-	11
Whooping Cough.	11	12	-	-	23	-	-
Measles.	709	84	19	-	812	-	12
Dysentery.	1	1	1	12	15	-	2
Meningitis.	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Pneumonia.	9	2	-	2	13	-	2
Erysipelas.	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	1	2	-	-
Chicken Pox.	7	5	10	14	36	-	-
Poliomyelitis Paralytic.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:-	748	107	34	35	924	-	27

Diphtheria.

No case of Diphtheria occurred during the year.

Immunisation.

415 children under the age of 5 years and 71 over the age of 5 years received a full course of primary immunisation against the disease. In addition 1,114 children received a reinforcing injection.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table summarises particulars contained in the Register of Tuberculous persons.

TABLE V

Number of Cases in Register.	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total in Register.
	M	F	M	F	
At the commencement of 1961.	112	77	18	20	227
Notified for the first time during 1961.	3	5	-	1	9
Restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
Inward Transfers	-	1	-	-	1
Removed from Register.	10	7	1	1	19
Cases remaining on Register at the end of 1961.	105	76	17	20	218

The reasons for removal of cases from the Register are given in the following Table:-

TABLE VI

Entries relating to:	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total in Register.
	M	F	M	F	
Persons who have died.	5	1	-	-	6
Persons certified by the medical practitioner in attendance to have recovered.	4	4	1	1	10
Revised diagnosis - not Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-
Persons who have ceased to reside permanently in the district.	1	2	-	-	3
Totals:-	10	7	1	1	19

In the following Table new cases and mortality are classified according to age, sex and site of disease:-

TABLE VII.

Ages.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
Under 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 45	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Under 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Total	3	5	-	1	5	1	-	-

National Assistance Act.

Section 47.

It was not found necessary to deal with any patients under the above Act.

PART III.

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF THE
WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE
DIVISION 12.

Pontefract Municipal Borough.

Featherstone Urban District.

Knottingley Urban District.

Osgoldcross Rural District.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER
1961.

BY

J. F. FRASER.,

M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Divisional Medical Officer.

J.F. Fraser. M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D. Obst., R.C.O.G.

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer
and School Medical Officer.

E. Atkinson. M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.M.

Assistant County Medical Officer
and School Medical Officer.

M. Obadiah. M.B., B.S., D. Obst., R.C.O.G.

Leeds Regional Hospital Board - Visiting Staff.

Ophthalmologist.

J.V. Kirkwood. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Orthopaedic Surgeon.

R.W.L. Calderwood. F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Oto-Rhino-Laryngologist.

K.M. Mayall. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.F.P.S.

Health Visitors and School Nurses.

Miss E.M. Atkinson.
Mrs. P.M. Brice.
Mrs. B. Clarke.
Miss L.O.I. Day.
Miss A. Elsley.
Mrs. M. Faulkner.
Miss B.N. Kennington.
Mrs. M.K. Walsh.

Assistant Health Visitors.

Mrs. M. Harrison.
Mrs. M. Hudson.
Mrs. J.K. Smith. (Clinic Nurse).

Tuberculosis Health Visitor.

Mrs. E.W. Petch.

Midwives.

Mrs. A. Atack.
Mrs. K. Berry.
Mrs. I. Bushell.
Mrs. E. Glover. (Relief).
Mrs. D. Kelly.
Mrs. B. Lister.
Miss C. Norton.
Mrs. A.M. Randall.
Miss C.A. Roberts.

Home Nurses.

Miss L. Casey.
Mrs. S. Eaton.
Mrs. F. Green.
Mrs. V. McVeigh.
Mrs. A. Pearce.
Mrs. J.M. Pycock.

Home Nurse/Midwife.

Mrs. P. Philip.

Mental Welfare Officers.

Miss M. Horsley.
Mr. G.F.G. Townend.

Speech Therapist.

Miss K.M. Wade.

Clerical Staff.

Mr. W. Carver. (Senior Clerk).
Mr. R. Bailey. (Deputy Senior Clerk).
Miss F.C. Beresford.
Miss E. Brabbs.
Miss K. Duker.
Miss M.M. Eyre.
Mrs. E.M. Slack. (Part-time).
Miss M.E. Thorpe.
Mrs. C. Walker.
Mrs. C.M. Wheatley.

INTRODUCTION.

In this section is given a brief account of the services provided by the West Riding County Council as a whole, under Part III of the National Health Service Act.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births.

The number of live births registered in the Divisional area during 1961 was 1149, an increase of 24 compared with the previous year.

The CRUDE BIRTH RATE, 18.8 per thousand of the estimated population compared with 18.7 for the previous year was well above the West Riding Administrative County rate of 17.2 and the England and Wales birth rate of 17.4.

Deaths.

The deaths assigned to the Divisional area after correction for transfers were 586, a decrease of 22 compared with 1960.

The CRUDE DEATH RATE from all causes was 9.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 10.1 for the previous year. The West Riding Administrative area is 12.1 and England and Wales 12.0.

Infant Mortality.

In 1961 the deaths of Infants under one year of age numbered 38. The Infant Mortality was 33.1 as against 25.8 in the previous year.

Maternal Mortality.

There was no maternal death in the Divisional area during the year.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES

Domiciliary Midwifery.

Of the 1159 notified live births, 467 were delivered by domiciliary midwives, the private doctors being present in 60 of these cases.

Notifications.

The following notifications were received from midwives practicing in the Division:-

Death of Mother.	-
Death of Child.	-
Still Births.	4
Liability to be a source of infection.	2

Medical Assistance.

Medical Aid notices sent in by midwives during 1961 numbered 58, all of these being domiciliary.

Gas and Air Analgesia.

All the domiciliary midwives held the certificate in gas and air analgesia administration and were equipped with the necessary apparatus.

The County Council decided in 1959 to provide each Midwife with a Trilene Analgesic Machine in addition to the Gas and Air Machine. By the end of the year eight Midwives had received the new machines.

Gas and Air Analgesia only was given in 39 cases. Pethidine only was given in 76 cases, and gas and air and pethidine was given in 117 cases. Trilene was administered in 50 cases and with Pethidine in 126 cases.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

There are four ante-natal clinics in the Division which are held at Pontefract, Featherstone, Knottingley and Ferrybridge, and during the year 467 patients attended, of which 374 were new patients. The total number of attendances was 2085. 107 patients were examined post-natally during the year.

Relaxation Classes.

Relaxation classes for expectant mothers are held at the Pontefract, Featherstone and Knottingley Clinics.

These have continued to be fairly well attended and the number of attendances at these Clinics during the year was 362.

Institutional Midwifery.

Patients from this Division are admitted to either the Castleford Maternity Home or to the Southmoor Maternity Unit, Hemsworth.

Little difficulty has been experienced regarding maternity accommodation although it has not always been possible to secure admission to the hospital of the patient's choice. Due to travelling difficulties there is a preference for the Castleford Maternity Home, although our allocation of beds is much smaller than at Southmoor.

CHILD WELFARE

There are County owned clinics at Pontefract, Featherstone and Knottingley.

Our Pontefract Clinic continues to be admired and appreciated by patients and staff.

Improvements have been made at the Knottingley Clinic in 1961, including a new entrance, pram shelter and additional toilet facilities.

The following proprietary preparations were available at cost prices to all women attending at the Clinics:-

Ostermilk.	Virol.
Trufood.	Maltoline.
Ovaltine.	Scotts Twin Pack.
Cow & Gate.	Farex.
Horlicks.	Robinson's Groats.
Glucose 'D'	Robinson's Patent Barley.
Minadex.	Colact.
Lactagol.	Robrex.
Bemax.	Robsoup.
Gerex.	Bovril Weaning Food.
Trufood Cereal.	Roboleine.

The annual turnover of baby food etc. is approximately £5,000.

The following were distributed free of charge:-

I.C.D. Tablets.	Ferrous Sulphate Tablets
Viteolin Tablets	A & D Liquid.
Vitamin 'C'	Lactation Tablets

I wish to express my thanks to the ladies of the Voluntary Committees at the Clinics for all the work they have done during the year.

Premature Babies

During the year 73 babies weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less were born in hospitals or nursing homes to mothers normally resident in the Division, and 16 were born at home.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Medical Inspections

The periodic medical examination of the four age groups, i.e. the entrants (5 years+) second age group (7 years+) intermediate years (10 years +) and leavers (14 years +) continued throughout the year at the 57 schools in the Division.

Re-examinations of children who, at previous periodic or special examinations had been found to have defects, were made at each school medical inspection. During the year 2782 periodic inspections were carried out.

General Condition of Children

All pupils at routine medical inspections are classified as to their general condition at the time of examination and 97.61% were classified as satisfactory and only 2.39% as unsatisfactory.

Uncleanliness

During the year health visitors and school nurses made 19,367 examinations of children in schools. Of these 440 individual children were found to be infested.

SPECIAL CLINICS

Ophthalmic Clinics

Dr. J.V. Kirkwood holds weekly clinics at the Central Clinic, Pontefract. During the year 1919 children were examined. Of these 614 were prescribed glasses.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics

Mr. K.N. Mayall holds fortnightly sessions at the Central Clinic, Pontefract, for children from this Division. During the year Mr. Mayall held 24 sessions and saw 116 children. In all, the children made 221 attendances.

Orthopaedic Clinics.

Mr. R.W.L. Calderwood, Orthopaedic Surgeon, holds a monthly Clinic at the Central Clinic, Pontefract, and during the year 9 sessions were held. 114 children were seen at these clinics and the total number of attendances made was 147.

Child Guidance Treatment.

A child Guidance Clinic is held weekly at the Central Clinic, Pontefract. Children from surrounding Divisional areas attended here in addition to our own. In November, Dr. E. Atkinson, Senior Assistance County Medical Officer, joined Dr. P.J. Crowley, the Consultant Psychiatrist, on the staff of the Clinic.

Mr. D.G. Pickles, Clinic Psychologist, and Mrs. P. Harris, Psychiatric Social Worker, continued to do much good work at the Clinic.

Speech Therapy.

In 1959, the speech therapy clinic at Featherstone was transferred to the Central Clinic, Pontefract. This is more centrally situated for mothers to attend. Miss K.M. Wade, Speech Therapist, treated 79 children during 1961.

Handicapped Pupils.

The regular medical examination of handicapped children continued during the year and where necessary, recommendations were made for placement in special schools.

Medical Examination of Teachers and Entrants to Training College.

It is the duty of the School Medical Officer to examine candidates applying for entry to training colleges for the purpose of satisfying the college authorities of their fitness to follow a course of teacher training. During the year 33 candidates were examined and where necessary, x-ray examinations arranged.

In the case of entrants to the teaching profession, 4 examinations were made.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis was offered to all children in the year of their 13th birthday. With the consent of the parents, a test is performed to see if the child has already encountered the germ of Tuberculosis. If it has done so, no further action is taken, as it is assumed that the child is acquiring a natural immunity. If, however, the test indicates that the child has not encountered tubercle bacillus, then vaccination is carried out.

The age of 13 years has been chosen because at this age the natural resistance to the disease tends to drop and it is hoped to confer protection during the years of increased risk.

During 1960 the Ministry of Health decided to make the offer of Vaccination a continuous one to all children over 13 years of age.

<u>No. of consents issued</u>	<u>No. of consents Received.</u>	<u>Mantoux Test.</u>	<u>Mantoux Negative</u>	<u>Mantoux Positive</u>
1033	620	567	502	65
<u>Not Ascertained</u>			<u>B.C.G. Vaccination</u>	
-			502	

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

The programme of Vaccination was continued during the year.

At the end of 1961 the position was as follows:-

Children and Young Persons under 18 years of age.

Number vaccinated 12490

Young Persons born between 1933 and 1942.

Number vaccinated 2719

Adults

Number vaccinated

Total. 698
15907

HEALTH VISITING.

During the year, the following number of visits were made by the Health Visitors in the Division.

No. of children under 5 years of age visited during the year...	3512
Total visits made to expectant mothers. ...	220
Total visits made to children under 1 year of age.. ...	5391
Total visits made to children aged 1 and under 2 years. ...	2224
Total visits made to children aged 2 but under 5 years. ...	4361
Total visits made to tuberculous households ...	1574
Total families or households visited ..	4635
Other cases visited ...	6205

HOME NURSING

During the year 21,927 visits were paid by home nurses compared with 22,380 in the previous year.

The number of cases attended and visits made are shown below:-

Classification.	No. of Cases attended by Home Nurses during year.	No. of visits paid by Home Nurses during year.
(1) Medical.	566	18107
(2) Surgical.	193	3431
(3) Infectious Diseases.	-	-
(4) Tuberculosis	8	365
(5) Maternal complications.	5	24
Totals:-	772	21927
Patients included in above who were aged 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year.	490	16164
Children included in above who were under 5 years of age at the time of the first visit during the year.	40	192
Patients included in above who have had more than 24 visits during the year.	107	5822

HOME HELP SERVICE

The Home Help Service is provided under the National Health Service Act, 1946. Section 29 of the Act stipulates the class of case for which provision of a Home Help can be made. These are as follows:-

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| (a) Ill. | (d) Expectant Mother. |
| (b) Lying-in. | (e) Mental Defective. |
| (c) Aged. | (f) A child not over compulsory school age. |

Before a Home Help can be provided, a form of application must be signed by the head of the household on which he undertakes either to pay the whole cost of the service, or to give a statement of his income and agree to pay the assessed charge according to the County Council scheme.

Under no circumstances can a Home Help be used as a sitter-in and the amount of assistance which a patient is granted is related strictly to the amount of domestic work which is required to be done.

The authorised establishment of Home Helps in this Division was 37.

Authorised Divisional Establishment

(i)	Basic	37
(ii)	From Reserve.	-
(iii)	TOTAL.	37

No. of Domestic Helps employed at 31st December, 1961.

(i)	Whole-time	Nil
(ii)	Part-time	52
(iii)	TOTAL	52

Cases provided with Domestic Help during the year ended
31st December, 1961.

	<u>No. of Cases</u>	<u>Hours employed</u>
(i) Maternity (including expectant mothers).	34	1966
(ii) Tuberculosis.	3	297
(iii) Chronic Sick - (a) aged 65+	362	66100
(b) under 65	70	9530
(iv) Others.	-	-
	<u>469</u>	<u>77893</u>

Number of Home Helps that could have been employed full-time - 35.7

MENTAL HEALTH

In November, 1960, the new Mental Health Act became operative and two Mental Welfare Officers were given the task of coping with the increased work which the Act places upon local Health Authorities.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF STAFF

New entrants to the County Council service are required to undergo a medical examination to see if they are suitable for admission to the Superannuation Scheme, and during the year I examined 60 candidates.

In addition I medically examined 88 persons who were to be employed in the School Meals Service.

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APPENDIX

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

Prescribed Particulars required by Section 128(3)

1. Inspections made:

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	3	3	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A.	85	33	5	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out- workers premises)	4	4	0	0
Total	92	40	5	0

2. Cases in which Defects were found:

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Sanitary conveniences 5.7 - Insufficient Defective	0	0	0	0	0
All other Defects	9	0	0	0	0
Total	9	0	0	0	0

3. Outworkers

Nature of Work (1)	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
Making wearing apparel	1	0	0	0	0	0
Finishing Tapestries	1	0	0	0	0	0
All other work	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	0	0	0	0	0

J.F. Fraser.

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1962.

BOROUGH OF PONTEFRAC T

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

E N V I R O N M E N T A L H Y G I E N E

in the

Year Ended the Thirty-First December, 1961

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

LEWIS WALSH, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

Municipal Offices,
Pontefract

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Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, 1961

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you this my Twenty-second Annual Report. For the purpose of this Introduction in which comment is made on major aspects of the Department's activities, consideration may be divided into four parts, each of which occupies roughly the same amount of Departmental time: Housing, Clean Air, Food Control, and General Hygiene.

A sufficient number of housing units of suitable types, and maintained in a fit state, is a basic requirement for the well-being of any community; and it is the Department's duty to call attention to, and to assist in the remedy of, any deficiencies in these respects. Housing work in 1961 consisted largely of routine duties in connection with the Slum Clearance Programme - the rehousing of families and the demolition of unfit property - although, as the Report indicates, work on the repair and improvement of houses continued on a smaller scale. In my Report for 1960 I wrote at some length on the statutory standards of unfitness in relation to some 500 sub-standard houses in the Borough. At the time of writing this present report, work on a closer assessment of this situation has been started, and I hope to place a comprehensive, long term programme before the Health Committee in due course.

Clean Air activities have included the preparation for, and the making of, the Pontefract (No.2) Smoke Control Order, which was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government without modification. Some 610 houses and 140 other buildings, and 611 acres of the Borough, are now covered by confirmed Orders, although the No.2 Order does not come into operation until October, 1962. At the time of writing, excellent progress has been made, and it is anticipated that all replacements and adaptations of appliances will have been completed by that date. There seems to be considerable confusion in the minds of some people regarding the appropriate solid **smokeless** fuels to be used on the different classes of appliances. If any person in the town, whether living in a smoke control area or otherwise, has any such difficulty, the Department would welcome the opportunity to advise.

A 47% increase in the use made of the Newtown Slaughterhouse, and progress made on the project to erect a new Municipal Abattoir, provide the main interest in the Food Hygiene Section of the Report. The Corporation now have eight years' experience of central slaughtering, throughout which period the Service has been self-supporting. There is every appreciation of those who have made the Newtown premises available; but the facilities provided there are now totally inadequate to present day requirements, and it is hoped to have the new premises in operation towards the end of 1962. Despite the greatly increased running costs which are expected - largely because of high loan charges - there is every indication that an increasing throughput will enable the undertaking to pay its way.

Food Hygiene in factories, restaurants and shops has been given close attention, and conditions generally are improving year by year. More could be done by way of food hygiene educa-

tion among food handlers, particularly amongst young people on entering the food trades. I hope that by the end of 1962 all food premises in the Borough will meet the structural standards laid down in the Food Hygiene Regulations, after which it should be possible to devote more attention to educational activities.

Under the heading of General Hygiene, Chapters 4 to 8 of the Report deal with such matters as: hygiene in places of employment - respecting which legislation is still awaited to implement the findings of the Gowers Report, presented to Parliament in 1949; hygiene in places of public resort, such as swimming baths, refreshment houses and hairdressing establishments; the sanitary circumstances of the Borough; the abatement of nuisance, and pest control.

Full advantage was taken of the laboratory facilities available to the Department, and during the year under review 311 specimens and samples were submitted to bacteriological or chemical laboratories. These included water samples for chemical composition and bacterial condition, swimming baths waters for bacterial condition; milks for the presence of pathogens, heat-treated milks - pasteurised and sterilised - for efficiency of treatment, and milks and milk containers for cleanliness; specimens for confirmation of meat inspection opinions, for food poisoning organisms, etc; and samples of materials taken under the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials, Act, 1951. One cannot speak too highly of the assistance received from the Medical Research Council Laboratory at Wakefield.

To conclude this Introduction I would refer to the expanding nature of the work of the Department. For the first time, specific reference has been made in my Report to the problem of noise, and to the problem of accidents in the home. The advent of the smoke control area has resulted in the Department's Officers being brought into the homes of the townspeople to a greater degree than ever before. During the year I attended a course of lectures on radioactivity in relation to public health; and although this subject receives no further consideration in the present Report, it is not unlikely that within a few years reference to some aspect of the subject - in connection with food, disposal of wastes, or occupational hazard - will be a regular feature.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

Housing Provision and Overcrowding - Fitness
of dwellings - Improvement - Certificates of
Disrepair for rent abatement - Accidents in the
home - Common Lodging houses

Housing Provision and Overcrowding

Since post-war house-building began, 3,167 dwellings have been erected in the Borough, 276 of these during the year under review, as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. New Housing Progress 1946 - 1961

Year	No. of dwellings erected*					Total
	By the Corporation			By Housing Association	By Private Enterprise	
	Permanent	Temporary	Total			
1946	6	36	42	178 536	23	65
1947	159		159		39	198
1948	161		161		26	187
1949	134		134		11	145
1950	104		104		12	116
1951	86		86		9	95
1952	105		105		11	116
1953	108		108		19	305
1954	73		73		41	650
1955	35		35		47	82
1956	26		26		65	91
1957	88		88		76	164
1958	6		6		140	146
1959	68		68		164	232
1960	107		107		192	299
1961	91		91		185	276
Total	1,357	36	1,393	714	1,060	3,167

*Excluding 27 dwellings which were subsequently demolished

In Table 2 the numbers of permanent houses built by the Corporation over this period are grouped into triennial periods.

Table 2. Corporation House-building, 1947 - 1961

Period	No. of houses built by Corporation	Yearly Average
1946-48	326	109
1949-51	324	108
1952-54	286	95
1955-57	149	50
1958-60	181	60
1961	91	(91)
Total	1,357	85

Only a detailed survey would indicate accurately the housing needs of the town. The last survey was made shortly after the Housing Act, of 1935 introduced specific legislation to deal with overcrowding. A second one could provide useful information on present day conditions, and would seem to be considerably overdue. In the absence of accurate information one must turn to the numbers and categories of applicants for Corporation houses.

At the end of 1961 the number of such applicants living in the Borough was 1,231, many of whom are not 'needy' cases unless one takes into account a natural desire on the part of most housewives to have the modern amenities to be found in Corporation houses. Furthermore, many applicants, when due for investigation by the Housing Department, will have made other arrangements. Of this figure 1,231, 556 applicants are from persons living in lodgings at the time of application, and 254 are from elderly persons seeking accommodation more suited to their needs. Only 29 of the latter are living in lodgings, and the provision of a sufficient number of new units specific to the needs of the elderly would release much under-occupied accommodation and help substantially to satisfy the general housing need. The 68 bungalows already provided for elderly persons, supplemented by 40 of the 65 bed-sitter flats erected by the Corporation, which have been let to elderly people, are clearly inadequate to meet the demand, and further units are under construction.

In this Report 'statutory overcrowding' means the gross state of overcrowding which constitutes an offence under the Housing Act, 1957. Such overcrowding occurs when the number of persons sleeping in a house exceeds the 'permitted number' of persons (as given in the rent book). The number of known cases of statutory overcrowding was reduced by one during the year: no new cases of overcrowding were added to the register and 1 was removed consequent upon abatement. The numbers of cases found and abated during the past five years are given in Table 3.

Table 3. Incidence and Abatement of Statutory Overcrowding

No. of cases	Year				
	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
On register at begining of year	4	5	2	3	2
Added to register during the year	2	5	2	0	0
Abated during the year	1	8	1	1	1*
On register at end of year	5	2	3	2	1**

*No. of persons concerned in this case: 10
** No. of families living in this dwelling: 3(16 persons)

There are, however, many cases which although not statutorily overcrowded are clearly in need of more accommodation. The statutory standard, first set in 1936, needs revision. In this Borough it is, for all practical purposes, useless.

Fitness of dwellings

Fifty-five unfit houses were demolished and 78 were repaired or improved during the year as the result of action taken by the Department. Particulars of housing activities are summarised below:-

1. Inspection of houses -

(1)(a)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	226
(b)	Number of inspections made in this connection (initial inspections, re-visits, works in progress, etc.)	578
(2)	Number of houses (included above) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	67
(3)	Houses needing further action:	
(a)	Number considered to be unfit for human habitation	39
(b)	Number (excluding the above) considered to be not in all respect reasonably fit	180

2. Remedy of defective conditions -

(1)	Houses made fit or in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action	57
(2)	Houses rendered fit, or in which defects were remedied as a result of formal action:	
(a)	Housing Act	0
(b)	Public Health Act	3

3. Clearance, etc. of houses -

(1)	Action taken in respect of Clearance Areas:	
(a)	Number of new clearance areas declared	0
(b)	Number of houses involved	-
(c)	Number of families displaced	4
(d)	Number of persons involved	17
(e)	Number of houses (in clearance areas) demolished	0
(2)	Action taken in respect of Individual Unfit Houses:	
(a)	Number represented	11
(b)	Number of houses in respect of which -	
(i)	Demolition Orders were made	4
(ii)	Closing Orders were made	6

(iii) Undertakings not to relet were given	7
(iv) Closing Orders were revoked and Demolition Orders made	0
(c) Number of families displaced	28
(d) Number of persons involved	91
(e) Number of houses closed on Closing Orders or Undertakings	19
(f) Number of individual unfit houses demolished	20
(3) Action taken in respect of unfit Corporation houses:	
(a) Number of unfit houses acquired and demolished	6
(b) Number of unfit houses acquired and closed	2
(c) Number of temporary bungalows demolished	8
(d) Number of families displaced from (a) to (c) above	13
(e) Number of persons involved	26

Slum Clearance Programme

By the beginning of 1961 the first phase of the Slum Clearance Programme, embracing 200 houses, had been completed, and action had been initiated in the remaining 111. It was anticipated that this second phase of the programme would be completed by the end of the year; but for various reasons - in particular, protracted negotiations in connection with the Prince of Wales Terrace area, and rehousing problems - this was not achieved. Action had been completed, however, in 239 cases; 60 families still awaited rehousing and, in addition to the houses these families occupied, a further 12 vacated houses had still to be dealt with.

Of the 311 houses in the total programme there were 22 cases in which the Corporation was not called upon to rehouse. The subsidies thus released made it possible to add a number of unfit houses to the programme. Eleven such houses were added during 1961 and it is anticipated that a similar number will be added in 1962. Table 4 gives details of progress made since the formulation of the Programme.

It was thought by some that modernisation with the help of improvement grants would have arrested much of the deterioration of older houses into a state of unfitness. Such modernisation could only achieve this end if proceeding on a much larger scale than has, in fact, occurred in Pontefract. Groups of property of this kind could only have been saved by means of enforcement, on a street by street basis, for which the statutory power does not appear to exist.

Table 4. Slum Clearance Proposals: Progress Report

	Year of Programme:						
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	Total
No. of houses in respect of which formal action was initiated -							
(a) As Clearance Areas	0	21	0	79	50	0	150
(b) Individual Unfit houses	16	66	8	10	42	11	153
(c) Purchased by Council	0	0	0	0	19	0	19
Total	16	87	8	89	111	11	323
No. of houses vacated -							
(d) By Council rehousing	4	57	22	35	66	45	229
(e) Otherwise	4	3	3	2	8	2	22
Total	8	60	25	37	74	47	251
No. of houses in respect of which action was completed -							
(f) Closed (and not subsequently demolished)	2	13	6	4	15	19	59
(g) Demolished	0	15	43	15	80	20	173
(h) Reconstructed as fit houses	0	0	0	5	2	0	7
Total	2	28	49	24	97	39	239

Improvement Grants

In suitable cases the Standard Grant can be claimed as a right. It is intended to encourage owners to modernise houses with a useful life of at least fifteen years and to which, without structural additions involving much new building work, can be added the 'standard amenities' not already provided. The standard amenities are (a) a fixed bath or shower in a bathroom; (b) a wash-hand basin; (c) a hot water supply; (d) a watercloset and (e) satisfactory facilities for storing food.

The Discretionary grant is available for more extensive improvement. It is intended to apply to property which has a life of at least thirty years. A grant is paid solely at the discretion of the authority and, in addition to the 'standard amenities', may provide for the improvement of lighting, ventilation, heating and cooking facilities, and for works necessary to eliminate structural defects.

Since the inception of Standard Grants 3 years ago, 45 applications have been made, only three of which have been rejected by the Council. By the end of the year under review 35 schemes had been completed and grant paid. During 1961 four applications were made for discretionary grants and all had to be refused; two of the houses concerned had not the requisite period of useful life remaining, and 2 already met the 12-point standard. In 2 cases schemes started before 1961 were completed and grant paid. Thus, during the year, a total of 17 houses were improved with the aid of grants from the Corporation.

Since grants first became available some 13 years ago, 87 houses have been improved. This is a disappointing figure.

Table 5. Improvement Grants

Year	No. of Applications -			No. of approved Applications withdrawn	Grants actually made	
	Made	Approved	Rejected		No.	Total amount £
1949 to 1953	0	-	-	-	-	-
1954	2	1	-	-	-	-
1955	22	19	4	3	3	317
1956	4	2	2	-	10	1,559
1957	10	5	5	-	3	245
1958	11	10	1	-	10	1,099
1959						
* (a)	20	12	8	-	15	1,960
(b)	12	11	1	-	-	-
1960						
* (a)	5	5	0	1	9	1,254
(b)	24	23	1	1	20	2,098
1961						
* (a)	4	-	4	-	2	243
(b)	9	8	1	-	15	1,849
Total	123	96	27	5	87	10,624

* (a) Discretionary; (b) Standard

Rent Act, 1957. Certificates of Disrepair

Table 6 gives particulars of applications dealt with by the Council since the Act came into operation.

Table 6. Certificates of Disrepair Statistics

	1957 July-Dec.	1958	1959	1960	1961	Total
No. of applications for certificates of disrepair	15	14	3	2	1	35
No. of decisions not to issue certificates	0	3	0	0	0	3
No. of decisions to issue certificates if no undertaking given to remedy	9	17	3	1	1	31
No. of undertakings given by landlords	2	17	2	0	1	22
No. of undertakings not accepted by Sub-Committee	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. of certificates issued	0	6	1	2	0	9
No. of applications for cancellation of certificates (all granted)	0	1	1	1	2	5

Accidents in the Home

The problem of home accidents is receiving increasing attention, and the work of the Public Health Inspector clearly involves him in this matter.

Unfit housing conditions have a considerable bearing on the problem, and, wherever possible, when housing work is being carried out, this matter is borne in mind. Disrepair can be a direct cause of accidents, and the remedy of defective fireplaces, floors, window sash cords, and the like, presents no problem; but in the case of such defects as ill-lighted staircases, badly sited external toilets, and obsolete types of heating appliances - unless these occur in property which can be rectified by improvement grant, action must necessarily be deferred until clearance becomes possible.

Overheating and bad ventilation - resulting in fatigue - are matters which can be pointed out to tenants; but over-occupation, another important factor, is less readily solved in the continuing housing shortage.

The Department is further interested in this problem, having responsibility for administering locally The Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952 and Regulations made thereunder. These Regulations require fireguards to be fitted to gas and electric fires and oil heaters designed for domestic use and so constructed that, without a guard, there would be likelihood of injury by

burning or ignition of clothing. The Regulations prescribe standard tests for construction and performance. The co-operation of manufacturers has reduced the need for official action to a minimum; but the matter is always under observation.

Several authorities have suggested some system of notification of home accidents to enable defective conditions to be remedied and more preventive measures to be taken. Any attempt to provide an answer to a problem which every year takes some two million people to hospital - even though the great majority are for out-patient treatment only - would be well worthwhile.

Common Lodging Houses

The Ministry of Health ask for information about common lodging houses. There are no such premises in the Borough, the last one having been demolished ten years ago.

Section 235 of the Public Health Act, 1936, defines the expression 'common lodging house' as a house provided for the purpose of accommodating by night poor persons, not being members of the same family, who resort thereto and are allowed to occupy one common room for the purpose of sleeping or eating.

In the 1930's accommodation for 80 such persons was provided in four different houses. Almost all the people using these places were permanent boarders; there were very few itinerant. There is no evidence of need for such premises in the Borough in these days: one no longer meets 'poor persons' of the kind who used the common lodging houses in those days, and there is now better housing provision for single persons.

AIR POLLUTION

General Conditions - Industrial Pollution -
Smoke Control Areas - Road vehicles pollution

General Conditions

Pontefract is officially included in the West Riding Black Area. True, it is on the fringe, and its inclusion was probably decided by its high pollution from domestic sources; but being a 'black town' may well have advantages in such matters as availability of solid smokeless fuels, and - for those who are now fully convinced of the need for clean air - the special attention accorded to such authorities, to say nothing of pressure which may be exerted upon them, by the Government Department concerned.

Industrial Smoke

The 17 industrial chimneys in the Borough serving coal-fired plant have been kept under observation and are considered to be reasonably well under control. In 13 cases mechanical stoking is installed; the remaining four are hand-fired. All the mechanically stoked boilers and 3 of those hand-fired are capable of performing well within the standard required by the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958; one case, however, presents a special problem which is under active consideration, and which will be solved, probably by the installation of new plant, before July, 1963, when the defence under section 2 of the Clean Air Act (that smoke offences under Section 1 were due to inherently faulty equipment and not failure to maintain) can no longer be pleaded.

Today, most industrialists think of Clean Air, and Fuel Efficiency, as synonymous terms, as in fact they are; and coal in industry is undoubtably used much more efficiently than in domestic premises. This does not mean that the Department can be complacent about industrial pollution, and every opportunity is taken to recommend the use of such refinements as smoke alarms to ensure the highest standards. One imagines that some day an automatic record of dark smoke emission will be a legal requirement for all coal-fired plant, and that smoke administration will consist in the reading of such records rather than in the formal observation of smoke emission.

Smoke Control Areas

In December 1960 I had been authorised by the Council to start the preliminary survey of the proposed second smoke control area (bounded by Carleton Road, Ackworth Road, and the Borough boundary joining these roads) with the view to making an Order which would come into operation sometime in 1962. On the 6th April an introductory letter was sent to the occupiers of privately owned dwellings within the area, and the survey was started. (A modified letter was sent to Corporation tenants in June.) The survey was completed in July. At that time there were 584 houses in the area, 121 of which were Corporation property. Of the 463 privately-owned houses, 393 were owner-occupied. 349 houses, built after 5th July, 1956, were 'new dwellings' within the meaning of the Act, and would not, therefore, qualify for grant aid. Twelve 'old dwellings' were already smokeless.

223 houses were likely, therefore, to qualify for grant aid. The total cost of necessary adaptations and replacements at these houses was estimated at £7,444, of which £2,233 would be found by the owners, £2,233 by the Corporation, and £2,978 by the Exchequer. Further details are given overleaf:

Schedule of Estimated Costs of Adapting and Replacing Fireplaces

1. Number of existing appliances requiring replacement or adaptation

1. Open fires	264
2. Open fires with boilers	59
3. Combination grates and solid fuel cookers (without boilers)	16
4. Combination grates and solid fuel cookers (with boilers)	65

2. Numbers and costs of new appliances required

No. of Appliances	Open Fires	Gas or Electric Fires	Open fires with Boilers	Immer- sion Heaters	Gas or Electric Cookers	Other Appliances	Totals
	161	55	35	2	10	5	
Total Cost of Appliances £	£ 797	£ 615	£ 404	£ 8	£ 308	£ 140	£ 2,272
Total Cost of other works attributable to installation of new appliances (£)	£ 2,147	£ 253	£ 663	£ 11	£ 48	£ 99	£ 3,241

3. Cost of Other Work not attributable to installation of New Appliances

Adaptation of Existing Appliances		Provision of Gas or Electric Points	
No. of Appliances	Total Cost £	No. of Points	Total Cost £
146	£ 1,515	79	£ 416

4.	Estimated Cost of total Works	...	...	...	£ 7,444
5.	Estimated Exchequer Contribution	...	...	...	£ 2,978
6.	Estimated net cost to Corporation	...	...	...	£ 2,233

The Council's programme for smoke control areas provides for the inclusion of 2,000 houses in such Areas by the end of 1963, but the delay in reaching settlement on the question of concessionary coal in the mining industry resulted in some slowing down of the programme, and 1966 may now prove to be a more realistic date.

The byelaws requiring heating appliances in new buildings to be designed for burning smokeless fuels have now been in operation for three years. Appliances in the 950 houses built during that period will, therefore, need no adaptation before inclusion in smoke control areas. The byelaws do not, however, require means for ignition to be provided, and purchases of new houses should have this point in mind, and ensure that suitable ignition points are provided. The Department will be glad to advise.

So far as Corporation houses are concerned, during the past six years 823 heating appliances of obsolete types have been replaced. When the appropriate time arrives the absorption of these properties into smoke control areas should present no problem.

Road Vehicle Pollution

In the rare cases in which people affected by smoke control orders complain to me, it is usually about the failure to deal effectively with the problem of pollution from road vehicles. Unlike railway smoke, this matter is not dealt with under the Clean Air Act, but by Regulations made under the Road Traffic Act. Since April, 1955, Regulations have required every motor vehicle to be so constructed that no avoidable smoke is emitted. Regulations made in 1957 require that no person shall use any motor vehicle from which smoke is emitted which is likely to cause damage to property, or injure or cause danger to a road user. And in the year under review further Regulations were made controlling the use of excess fuel starting devices. These Regulations are administered by the Police, and one is glad to note the relatively heavy fines imposed by the local magistrates when such cases, far too infrequently, are brought before them.

Chapter Three

FOOD HYGIENE

Meat Supply - Milk Supply - Food Inspection -
Food Sampling - Food Premises and Processing -
Sale of Food in the Open - Disposal of unfit food

Meat Supply

All the 11,108 animals slaughtered in the Borough for food were dealt with at the Public Slaughterhouse. Municipal slaughtering started in July, 1954, and Table 7 gives figures of throughput for six-month periods since that time. Seasonal factors account for some difference between June and December figures, and the weekly average figures are therefore separated to show more clearly the general trend. The average throughput over the period of operation has exceeded the nominal maximum.

Table 7. Throughput - Six monthly periods

Six-month period ended	Throughput		
	Total Number of Cattle Units	Weekly Average	
		Number of Cattle Units	% of Nominal Capacity
December, 1954	919	35	58
June, 1955	1,218	46	77
December, 1955	1,285	50	83
June, 1956	1,512	58	97
December, 1956	1,726	66	110
June, 1957	1,420	55	92
December, 1957	1,748	65	108
June, 1958	1,629	63	105
December, 1958	1,776	68	113
June, 1959	1,731	67	112
December, 1959	1,609	62	103
June, 1960	1,434	55	92
December, 1960	1,782	66	110
June, 1961	2,066	83	138
December, 1961	2,559	95	158

The Slaughterhouse has continued to operate on a self-supporting basis, and Table 8 gives particulars of throughput during the year reviewed, together with the 1960 figures for comparative purposes. It also shows the 47% increase in throughput during 1961.

Table 8. Throughput at Public Slaughterhouse

4 weeks ended	Throughput: No. of animals of the classes named -										Mean weekly no. of Cattle units*		% of nominal capacity (60 cu's)	
	Cattle		Calves		Sheep		Pigs		Total					
	1961	1960	1961	1960	1961	1960	1961	1960	1961	1960	1961	1960		
29th January	108	87	4	2	334	279	237	208	683	576	73	62	121	103
26th February	133	85	2	1	332	218	296	221	763	525	87	60	145	100
26th March	123	82	4	5	247	185	295	179	669	451	80	52	133	87
23rd April	119	76	6	4	288	138	333	231	746	449	86	55	143	92
21st May	115	83	6	1	376	179	327	186	824	449	89	53	148	88
18th June	117	68	2	3	391	229	232	158	742	458	78	49	130	81
16th July	119	68	1	-	467	294	250	149	837	511	84	50	140	83
13th August	111	75	3	4	437	313	232	148	783	540	79	53	131	88
10th September	115	66	5	1	550	354	267	175	937	596	90	56	150	93
8th October	120	87	4	1	549	355	281	186	954	629	93	63	155	107
5th November	125	101	1	7	631	279	351	224	1119	611	119	68	198	113
3rd December	133	93	1	4	649	398	326	255	1109	750	104	75	173	125
31st December	102	134	-	4	406	410	459	416	967	964	103	85	171	142
Near Average	119	85	3	3	435	279	299	210	856	577	89	60	148	101

* One cattle unit equivalent to three calves, five sheep or two pigs.

All carcasses, organs and viscera of animals passing through the Public Slaughterhouse were inspected, and those found to be diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption were, after treatment with a green dye to prevent any possibility of use for human consumption, removed to a local factory for sterilisation and conversion into useful commodities.

A total of 8 carcasses, 29 parts of carcasses and 402 organs and parts were condemned, their total weight being 1 to 18 cwts. 1 qr. 18 lbs. Table 9 gives particulars of the various classes of animals inspected, and of condemnations.

Table 9. Record of Meat Inspection and Incidence of Disease

Class of Animal	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1477	69	40	5658	3864
Number inspected	1477	69	40	5658	3864
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci:					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	0	0	4	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	139	2	2	107	157
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	9.5%	2.9%	5.0%	1.9%	4.1%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	0	0	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.06%	1.4%	-	-	0.3%
Cysticerci:					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	13	0	0	0	0
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	0	0	0	0
Generalised and totally condemned	0	0	0	0	0

In the following Table the incidence of tuberculosis in food animals slaughtered in the Borough is given for 1950, 1955, 1960 and 1961. These are sufficient to show the falling incidence of this disease.

Table 10. Changing Incidence of Tuberculosis

Incidence of Tuberculosis	Year			
	1950	1955	1960	1961
% of Animals affected -				
Cattle excluding cows	17.8	9.3	0.7	0.1
Cows	50.8	16.3	4.1	1.5
Pigs	5.9	2.1	0.7	0.3
No. of whole carcasses condemned -				
Cattle excluding cows	9	1	0	0
Cows	31	1	0	0
Pigs	3	0	0	0

The 16 beast carcasses found to be affected with cysticercosis give a percentage incidence of 1.08. In 13 cases where cysts were localised and degenerate, carcasses were passed as fit after jointing and detailed inspection. In 3 cases the cysts were viable, the invasion was localised and, before being released for human consumption, carcasses and organs were subjected to controlled re-grigeration. Table 11 gives comparative figures of incidence over the past five years.

Table 11. Incidence of *Cysticercus bovis*

Year	No. of cases	% Incidence
1957	21	1.75
1958	34	2.89
1959	20	1.98
1960	6	0.55
1961	16	1.08

Fatstock Guarantee Scheme

Throughout the year the Public Slaughterhouse continued to operate as a Certified Deadweight Centre for the purposes of the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme, under which guarantee payments are made to producers of livestock under Part I of the Agriculture Act, 1947. To qualify for guarantee payment fatstock must be certified by authorised officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. This is a convenient arrangement for producers who do not need to use the livestock markets, and has been a contributory factor towards the increased throughput to which earlier reference was made.

Milk Supply

As required by Article 8 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, a register is kept of all persons carrying on the trade of milk distributor from premises in the Borough, and of all premises in the district which are used as dairies (except dairy farms, which are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries). Table 12 gives particulars of the changes which took place during the year, and of the position at the end of the year.

Table 12. Registration of Dairies and Milk Distributors

Particulars of changes	Dairies	Distributors	
		From Shops*	Others
No. on register at 1st January	4	53	10
No. in respect of which new applications were made	0	2	0
No. in respect of which applicant was refused on public health grounds	0	0	0
No. added to register	0	2	0
No. removed from register -			
(a) Trading ceased	0	2	0
(b) On public health grounds	0	0	0
No. on register at 31st December	4	53	10

* Only bottled 'Sterilised' milk sold in these cases

The use of a special designation (Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised) and the holding of the appropriate licence under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations is obligatory upon all milk retailers in the Borough. This is in consequence of the inclusion of the Borough in a 'Specified Area' made by Order of the Ministers of Agriculture and Health. The retailing of non-designation milks in the area is an offence.

Seventeen samples of milk of various grades, bottled ready for sale, were taken during the course of the year for examination for compliance with the standards laid down by the Regulations. Of the number of samples taken, sixteen were reported upon as satisfactory, and one sample of Tuberculin Tested milk failed to satisfy the methylene blue reduction test.

Table 13. Graded Milks: Sampling Records

Grade of Milk	Test Applied		
	Methylene Blue*	Phosphatase**	Turbidity***
Pasteurised	11	11	-
Sterilised	-	-	1
T.T. Pasteurised	3	3	-
T.T.	2	2	-

* For cleanliness and keeping quality

** For efficacy of pasteurising process

*** For efficacy of sterilising process

Generally, the standard of distribution is satisfactory. Minor violations of the Milk and Dairies Regulations have not necessitated formal action. Conditions at the dairies were satisfactory.

The cleanliness of milk containers was investigated during the year. At a dairy where several thousand bottles are filled daily, 24 washed, empty bottles were taken at intervals for bacteriological examination. A bacterial count of not more than 600 indicates a satisfactory bottle: all were satisfactory the highest count being 450 and the average 100. When one sees the dirty state in which many empty milk bottles are returned by consumers, and the lengths to which managements go to ensure adequate cleansing before re-use, one has some sympathy with them when the occasional slip occurs and an unclean bottle is sold to a customer. They have the remedy, however, in their own hands - the non-returnable carton.

The cleanliness of churns at the same establishment was also investigated. Twenty-two churns were tested, seven of which were unsatisfactory. Improvement has since been obtained.

Ice-Cream Manufacture and Sale

As required by Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, a register is kept of all premises used for the sale, or the manufacture or storage for sale, of ice-cream. Table 14 gives particulars of the changes which took place during the year, and of the position at the end of the year.

Table 14. Registration of Ice-Cream Premises

Particulars	Sale and storage	Manufacture sale and storage
No. on Register at 1st January	94	2
No. in respect of which new applications were made	7	0
No. in respect of which application was refused	-	-
No. added to register	7	0
No. of registrations cancelled -		
(a) following offences	-	-
(b) Ceased to trade	-	-
No. of changes of occupation of registered premises notified	2	0
No. on register at 31st December	101	2

The two registered ice-cream factories are not in use as such, and all the ice-cream sold in the Borough is made elsewhere. Nine manufacturers are registered to sell their ice-cream from vehicles in the Borough. Such vehicles must meet the standard laid down by the Council, which includes the provision of a hot-water unit for handwashing, and of other practicable measures for preventing contamination of the ice-cream. No offences under the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations in relation to storage or sale have been noted.

General Food Inspection

In addition to the inspection of meat at the Public Slaughterhouse, shops were visited from time to time for the inspection of meat and other foods. Over the period under review the following total quantities of unfit food were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

84 lbs.	potatoes
2,284 lbs.	meats
377 lbs.	fruit
28 lbs.	walnuts
25 lbs.	miscellaneous foods

Certificates were issued to traders in 145 cases, enabling them to claim from wholesalers for loss of foods condemned.

A number of foods were submitted to bacteriological examination during the year. These included: sausages, pork pies, meringue mixture, desiccated coconut and coconut sweets. The results obtained, although of no statutory significance, assisted in investigations which were being made into the conditions under which food was being prepared.

Food Premises

The conditions under which food for sale is prepared and handled in the various factories, warehouses, shops, restaurants and hotels in the Borough occupies much of the Department's time.

The numbers of the different classes of food premises in the Borough, as at the end of the year, are given in Table 15.

Table 15. Food Premises Analysed according to Trade

Class of Premises or Nature of Business	Manufacture or Preparation	Distribution	Total
General Groceries		88	88
Bread and Cakes	6	8	14
Sugar Confectionery	4	22	26
Greengrocer, fish, game and poultry	2	20	22
Butcher and meat preparation	21	23	44
Chemists		6	6
Fish frying	17		17
Public Houses and clubs		52	52
Off licence premises		8	8
Cafes, snack bars and canteens	35		35
Church premises	6		6
Mineral water, etc. bottling	3		3
Miscellaneous	2	8	10
Totals	96	235	331

One hundred and twenty-two of these premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955; 101 of these, as already indicated, are ice-cream premises, the remaining 21 being registered for the manufacture of made-up meats etc.

Table 16 gives figures indicative of the Department's activities in this field since the coming into operation of the Food Hygiene Regulations in July, 1956.

Table 16. Inspection of Food Premises

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
No. of visits paid to food premises	93	294	182	122	110	148
No. of food rooms inspected	199	392	475	349	195	352
No. of offences noted under Food Hygiene Regulations	313	545	541	179	44	26
No. of offences outstanding at end of year	228	197	278	68	22	20
No. of offences against the food handlers byelaws	15	16	14	6	0	0
No. of byelaw offences outstanding at end of year	11	2	3	1	0	0

It will be clear from the above Table that since the inception of the Food Hygiene Regulations there has been gradual improvement in the conditions under which food is processed and handled in the factories and shops of the town. The structural condition of food rooms, the standard of plant and equipment, and the awareness of management and staff to the significance of hygienic practices have never been higher. During the course of almost 1,000 visits between 1956 and 1961 a great deal of educational work has been done among food handlers; for there is no doubt that however up-to-date and well equipped the premises may be, ultimate responsibility for safe food rests largely with the people who must necessarily handle the food. Regulation 5 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, places upon all persons engaged in the handling of food the duty of protecting that food from risk of contamination. This personal responsibility cannot be too often stressed, particularly on new entrants to the food trades.

In one case it became necessary, in view of the seriousness of the offences committed, to report to the Council violations of certain of the Food Hygiene Regulations. After full consideration, a warning was issued to the firm concerned, and the defective conditions were, in due course, rectified. The Council set a high standard for food premises in this Borough. Businessmen in the town know this and willingly accept the position - in fact, they find it pays dividends: any newcomer to the town must be prepared to accept these same standards.

Sale of Food in the Open Air

As required by section 76(1) of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, registers are kept of persons hawking food in the Borough, and of Hawkers' storage premises. Table 17 gives particulars of the changes which took place during the year under review, and of the position at the end of the year.

Table 17. Registration of Food Hawkers and Storage Premises

Particulars of changes	Hawkers	Storage Premises
No. on Register at 1st January	100	6
No. in respect of which new applications were made	4	0
No. in respect of which application was refused	0	0
No. added to register	4	0
No. of registrations revoked -		
(a) Following offences	0	0
(b) Ceased to trade	43	2
No. on register at 31st December	61	4

Table 18 analyses the number of registered food hawkers according to the various classes of trade.

Table 18. Food Hawkers according to trade

Trade	No. Registered		
	At 31st Dec. 1961	Added during 1961	Removed during 1961
Butchery	15	0	4
General Grocery	3	0	5
Grocery and Confectionery	5	1	11
Fish and Greengrocery	1	0	4
Greengrocery	18	1	7
Confectionery	6	0	6
Ice-Cream	8	1	3
Mobile Canteen	1	1	2
Butcher and General Grocery	1	0	0
Grocery, butcher and fish and fruit	1	0	0
Fish	2	0	0
Fish and Chips	0	0	1
Total	61	4	43

There are definite advantages to be obtained from the registration of food businesses. This applies particularly to mobile shops; but these are more difficult to control and, unless one can devote enough time to the work, registration can get out of hand. It will be seen from Table 17 that 100 food hawkers were on the register at the beginning of the year: many of these were no longer being seen in the Borough, and on circularising them it was found possible to remove 43 from the register. Of the remaining 61, 22 come from outside the Borough.

Inspections of mobile shops indicated a reasonable standard of hygiene, and food of satisfactory quality. In no case were conditions such that the public health was likely to be endangered; although, from time to time, one had to overlook the absence of refinements precluded by the restricted space necessarily associated with mobile trading.

Disposal of Unfit Food

All unfit food should be disposed of in such a manner that it cannot again, by accident or otherwise, be used for human consumption. It is of particular importance that the disposal of diseased meat from slaughterhouses and of all knacker meat should be under strict control.

The Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations, 1960 which became operative in November of that year, require, with certain exceptions, that unfit meat shall be sterilised, and all knacker meat stained or sterilised before entering the chain of distribution - as food for animals or otherwise. The principal exception is unfit meat from slaughterhouses which do not have their own sterilisation plant; such meat must be sent to processors under arrangements approved by the appropriate public health officer.

A great deal of unfit meat is brought into the Borough for sterilisation at factories referred to later in this Report under the heading of Offensive Trades. Co-ordination between the Department and the sending authorities has been maintained; every effort has been made to ensure compliance with the Regulations at all collecting points; and I am satisfied that the chances of unfit meat being diverted into the wrong channels are remote.

The Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations have been strongly criticised because they permit knacker meat which has been merely stained, and not sterilised, to reach the retail 'animal food' market. In Pontefract, however, such danger is at a minimum since Byelaws have been made which prevent the retail sale of raw knacker meat.

Chapter Four

HYGIENE IN PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT

Factories - Outworkers - Agricultural
employment - Shops - Offices - Other
Workplaces

The Department shares responsibility for hygiene and welfare in places of employment with the Factory Inspectorate of the Home Office and the Shops Act Authority. So far as non-industrial premises are concerned new legislation is pending which will increase the local authorities' responsibilities. New standards are expected to be prescribed by Regulations, and the present is, therefore, a period of marking time so far as non-industrial premises are concerned.

Factories

The term 'factory' as used in the Factories Act, 1937, includes all premises where articles are made, altered or repaired for purposes of gain, and I append a list of the different trades carried on at factories in the Borough:-

Automobile engineering	Glue and size making
Baking	Grain and seed processing
Barley processing	Laundering
Beer and mineral water bottling	Liquorice confectionery manufacture and packing
Blacksmithery	Malting
Boot repairing	Milk pasteurisation
Box and packing material manufacture	Monumental masonry
Brush making	Photography
Building	Printing
Cattle food manufacture	Saddlery
Clothes manufacture	Sawmill
Coal-gas distribution	Slaughter of food animals
Fat refining	Tailoring
Fellmongering	Tinsmithery
Founding	Upholstery
Furniture manufacture and polishing	Whitesmithery
	Wire goods manufacture

The register of Factories, kept by the Council pursuant to section 8(3) of the Act, contains particulars of 88 factories, and Table 7 gives information relating to inspections, notices and defects found and remedied.

Table 19. Factories Records - 1961

	Number on Register	Inspection made	Number of written notices	Defects	
				Found	Remedied
(1) Factories without mechanical power (sections 1 to 4 and 6 and 7 of the Act enforced by local authorities)	3	3	0	0	0
(2) Factories with mechanical power (section 7 enforced by local authorities)	85	33	5	9	0
Total factories	88	36	5	9	0
(3) Other premises (section 7 enforced by local authorities)	4	4	0	0	0
Totals	92	40	5	9	0

The frequent inspection of factories with mechanical power is not considered necessary in view of the visits made by H.M. Factory Inspectors, who refer relevant matters to the Corporation. The Department comments on plans submitted for new development, and inspections are made when factories are visited in the course of other duties, such as food hygiene.

Workplaces

The term 'workplace' as used in the Public Health Act, 1936, comprises offices, restaurant kitchens and various other premises in which persons are employed; but excludes factories and (except for 'overcrowding' purposes) shops to which the Shops Act, 1950, applies. When unsatisfactory conditions come to notice the requisite remedial measures are taken.

Shops

The term 'shop' includes warehouses used in connection with wholesale or retail trade, refreshment houses, lending libraries and hairdressing establishments. 428 shop premises are listed on the Register, and the Shops Act, 1950, applies to some two-thirds of these. 39 visits for the investigation of welfare arrangements were made in 1961.

Agricultural Holdings

There are 42 such holdings in the Borough to which the Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956, applies. Since the coming into operation of the Act, all the premises concerned have been visited. No cause for serious complaint has been noted, and re-inspection during the year under review was considered unnecessary.

Chapter Five

HYGIENE IN PLACES OF PUBLIC RESORT

Swimming Baths - Refreshment Houses - Hairdressing Establishments

Public Swimming Baths - Bacterial Control of Water

The two swimming baths (adults' and children's indoor baths) are filled at the beginning of each season from the public supply, and operate on the continuous filtration system, with sterilisation by chlorination. Samples were taken weekly to ensure the maintenance of satisfactory conditions. 100 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and chemical tests were made on each sampling occasion to ascertain 'free chlorine' content and alkalinity. The results, given in Table 20 along with the respective standards recommended by the Ministry of Health, indicate the high standard maintained.

Table 20. Swimming Baths Waters: Results of Examinations

	Standard recommended by Ministry of Health	Results from Baths	
		Large Swim	Small Swim
No. of samples taken	-	50	50
No. of samples containing coliform organisms in 100 ml. water	0	0	0
Percentage of number of samples submitted to plate count, and containing in 1 ml. water -			
(a) 0 - 10 colonies	not less than 75%	94%	90%
(b) 11 - 100 colonies	not more than 25%	2%	6%
(c) over 100 colonies	0%	4%	4%
Percentage of number of tests for residual chlorine content showing -			
(a) less than 0.2 ppm	0%	4%	4%
(b) 0.2 ppm or more	100%	96%	96%
Percentage of number of tests for pH value alkalinity) -			
(a) between 7.2 and 8.0	100%	100%	100%
(b) outside these limits	0%	0%	0%

Paddling Pool

The paddling pool in the Valley Gardens has proved to be a popular addition to the gardens. Frequency of water changes, and methods of bacterial and algae control, have been recommended to the Parks's Department, and the efficiency of these is checked from time to time.

Refreshment Houses

Under this heading I refer to all restaurants, public houses and clubs. When these premises are visited under the Food Hygiene Regulations, an inspection is made at the same time of toilet facilities under section 89 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which relates to provision made for the convenience of persons resorting to the premises. Conditions generally were satisfactory, and in only one case was statutory action necessary.

Hairdressers and Barbers Establishments

As required by Section 120(1) of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, a register is kept of persons carrying on the business of hairdresser or barber on premises in the Borough. Table 21 gives the numbers of such establishments, and indicates changes during, and the position at the close of the year.

Table 21. Registration of Hairdresser and Barbers

Particulars of changes	Premises	Persons
No. on Register at 1st January	32	34
No. of entries added during 1961	3	3
No. of entries removed	4	4
No. on Register at 31st December	31	33

All premises were visited during the year. Three violations of byelaws were noted, and remedied following informal action; but conditions generally were satisfactory, and it was unnecessary to call the Council's attention to any particular premises. A very high standard of hygiene was a common feature of the 22 Ladies' Establishments. Customers in some male establishments appear to be less demanding.

Chapter Six

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Water Supply - Sewerage, Drainage and
Sewage Disposal - Refuse Collection
and Disposal

Water Supply

A sufficient and constant supply of wholesome water was distributed throughout the district by the Corporation during the year, the supply for domestic use being of the order of 28 gallons per head per day. The supply was sampled regularly both for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. 35 samples of chlorinated water going into supply were submitted to bacteriological examination, and all were reported upon as Class 1 waters. Seventeen samples of waters taken from source, before chlorination, were classified as indicated in Table 22.

Table 22. Bacteriological Classification of Waters.

Source of untreated water	No. of samples falling into the classes named				Total samples taken
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	
Heck	2	-	-	-	2
Roall	2	-	-	-	2
Eggborough	2	-	-	-	2
Tanshelf	10	1	-	-	11

Results of the bacteriological examination of waters are expressed as the number of coliform organisms per 100 millilitres of the water, and the standard set by the Ministry of Health for non-chlorinated, piped supplies is as follows:

<u>Class No.</u>	<u>Presumptive coli count</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Less than 1	Highly satisfactory
2	1 - 2	Satisfactory
3	3 - 10	Suspicious
4	More than 10	Unsatisfactory

Throughout the year at least 50% of the samples taken should fall into Class 1; 80% should not fall below Class 2; the remainder should not fall below Class 3. Table 23 sets out the standard reached by unchlorinated waters sampled from the sources named in Table 23

Table 23. Comparison of Waters with Prescribed Standard

% of Samples falling into -	Pre-scribed Standard %	Sources of Supply			
		Heck %	Roall %	Eggboro' %	Tanshelf %
Class 1	Not less than 50	100	100	100	91
Classes 1 & 2	Not less than 80	100	100	100	100
Class 3	Not more than 20	-	-	-	-
Class 4	0	-	-	-	-

Seven samples were submitted to chemical analysis and reported upon as being of good organic quality.

All houses in the Borough are connected to the public supply.

Sewerage, Drainage and Sewage Disposal

The Borough is well sewered, there being only 81 properties (19 less than reported last year) not served by public sewer; and it is anticipated that this figure will again be reduced when schemes approved by the Council, and at present in hand, have been completed. Twelve properties in the Borough are served by private disposal plants, 69 by cesspools, and the remainder, representing 99% of the total, are connected to public sewerage. Sanitary accommodation of the conservancy type (mainly chemical) exists at only 10 houses and at 3 other properties.

The Borough is served by the Knottingley Road and the Carleton Sewage Works. Whilst the Carleton Works are of recent construction, the Knottingley Road Works have been operating under increasing difficulties over the past few years. A scheme for the reconstruction of these Works, estimated to cost £200,000, was prepared by the Council during the year under review for submission to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for approval. The scheme provides for increasing by a quarter the capacity of these works, whilst supplying an effluent to the standards required by the Yorkshire Ouse River Board. At the time of writing, all necessary approvals have been received; but a very considerable time must necessarily elapse before the project is realised.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Corporation have undertaken the removal of house refuse throughout their district. All premises from which domestic refuse is removed are served by metal dustbins of standard specification. The Corporation have not adopted a Municipal Bin Scheme of the type envisaged by Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936. Bins are provided and replaced by owner or occupier, if necessary by formal notice pursuant to sub-section 1 of this section, as amended by Section 69 of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. In the great majority of cases owners accept this responsibility and statutory action is unnecessary. There would appear to be no good reason for changing this arrangement.

Apart from the salvaging of paper and metal, all refuse collected by the Corporation is disposed of by controlled tipping.

PREVENTION AND ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

Control of Offensive Trades - Animal Hygiene
- Noise Abatement - Moveable Dwellings -
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials

Control of Offensive Trades

Offensive trades within the meaning of section 107(1)(i) of the Public Health Act, 1936, are carried on at two premises in the Borough, the trades concerned being those of bone boiler, fat extractor, fat melter, fellmonger, glue maker, size maker, and tripe boiler. A further trade carried on is the concentration and sterilisation of vegetable and animal waste, declared by the Council to be an offensive trade pursuant to their powers under paragraph (ii)(b) of the sub-section.

These trades serve a necessary public service. Large quantities of waste material, much of it already at an advanced stage of decay, are brought on to these premises and not only rendered innocuous, but converted into useful commodities. Steps are taken to control the various processes and to prevent the escape of offensive gases generated in the course of processing. The complex and variable nature of the raw material received renders constant care necessary; the management must be on the alert for the first indication of the escape of offensive effluvium, and thereupon adjust the plant controls accordingly. There is no alternative to this empirical approach. Largely because those responsible become accustomed to the characteristic odour of the trade, the need for this adjustment is sometimes appreciated a little later than necessary to prevent the spread of the odour into the neighbourhood. This rarely continues for more than a short time, but occurs often enough for one to realise that good planning demands the siting of such premises well away from built-up areas.

The Corporation have taken all reasonably practicable measures to control offensive trades: a sub-committee was appointed to deal without delay with any statutory nuisance which arose: premises concerned were inspected regularly, and an immediate investigation followed any complaint. The managements concerned are anxious not to cause offence, and have endeavoured to operate accordingly.

Animal Hygiene

Apart altogether from the nuisance potential of animals kept under unsatisfactory conditions, many disease problems concerning animals have their effect, directly or indirectly on the public health. The control of conditions, therefore, under which animals are kept, whether they be animals on sale in pet shops, or food animals awaiting slaughter, or animals on agricultural holdings, is a matter which must concern the Department.

The Pet Animals Act, 1951, provides for the licensing of pet shops by the local authority who, before granting a licence, must be satisfied that animals for sale will be kept in accommodation suitable as respects size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness; be adequately supplied with suitable food and drink and (so far as necessary) visited at suitable intervals; that precautions will be taken to prevent the spread of diseases among animals, and that steps will be taken in case of fire or other emergency. There are two licenced premises

in the Borough, at which conditions were satisfactory.

At the Public Slaughterhouse every endeavour is made to ensure that animals are handled in conformity with the several provisions of The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations. The premises were designed for only a fraction of the present throughput, and this creates difficulties. The new Municipal Abattoir in course of erection at Water Lane will provide the ideal conditions under which animal hygiene, humane slaughter, and the avoidance of nuisance in the vicinity of the establishment should present no difficulty.

There is relatively little stabling or pig keeping in the Borough, and the Department is rarely called upon to deal with a complaint arising on such premises.

Noise Abatement

For many years Byelaws relating to noise nuisance have been in force in the Borough, dealing with such matters as sounding musical instruments or singing in the streets to the annoyance of occupants of houses, offices, churches or hospitals. In 1951 the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act added noise nuisance to the statutory nuisances, and the Noise Abatement Act of 1960 provided general legislation on similar lines and restricted the use of loudspeakers in the streets.

But the practical problems of noise are not necessarily solved by the application of the appropriate legal code. Three alleged noise nuisances from trade premises in the Borough were under investigation during the year, but the managements concerned were all taking the best practicable means available to them to minimise the noise level, and no formal action could, therefore, be taken.

Noise from aircraft near airports is probably the most severe noise nuisance but, fortunately, one to which the town is not yet subject. One cannot, however, ignore the excessive exhaust noises from many vehicles on our roads - motor cycles being particular offenders - and some people are greatly irritated by the over-loud chimes and snatches of the ice-cream hawker. Noise in the home has been reduced in recent years by the extended use of plastics; and the unavoidable clatter of the weekly dustbin collection has caused me to give serious thought to the practicability of introducing the rubber dustbin lid to the Borough.

The Noise Abatement Society, founded only two years ago, has already attracted the interest and membership of many organisations, including some 400 local authorities, Pontefract Corporation among them. The Society contends that noise is the greatest evil of all time, and that 95% of it is preventible by the exercise of restraint and good neighbourliness. Reading the Society's literature one is reminded of the early history of the Smoke Abatement Society and the crusading spirit which permeated those days. The latter Society has, in essential matters, arrived: one hopes that the Noise Abatement Society will not have to wait too long to enjoy the fruits of its labours. It may not, for during the year under review the Minister of Science appointed a Committee to examine the nature, sources, and effects of the problem of noise, and to advise what further measures can be taken to mitigate it. Research into noise suppression, in all its aspects is urgently needed, and the findings of the Committee are awaited with great interest.

This is the first of my annual reports in which the heading Noise Abatement has appeared; indeed, I believe it is the first in which noise has been mentioned. I have the feeling that it will take an increasingly important place in the Department's activities.

Moveable Dwellings

Pontefract has no caravan problem. When the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, came into force in August of that year only two licences were in force; these had been granted in respect of caravans, as opposed to caravan sites, and at the beginning of 1961 there were no caravans in the Borough, with the exception of a few in one of the exempted classes - namely, sited within the curtilage of a dwellinghouse where its use is incidental to the enjoyment of the house. At the end of the year there were still no licensed sites in the Borough. The high standards set by the Corporation for caravanners has tended to discourage the use of moveable dwellings in the Borough, and there is no demand for the Corporation to provide and manage their own sites.

To young married couples having no separate housing accommodation, the use of a caravan for a few years, until the housing situation eases, may seem to be an attractive proposition. The annual output of caravans in the country has increased tenfold in as many years, and one may assume that many couples have taken this course. A number have discussed the matter with me, and I have felt it my duty to discourage them.

Another exempted class under the Act of 1960 is the case of the single caravan which stays for one or two nights only, the site being so used for not more than twenty-eight days in a year. The Corporation's byelaws lay down the standards of hygiene applicable in such cases, and no difficulty has been experienced. Complaints were received on three occasions about gypsies stationing their caravans on the verges of lanes on the outskirts of the Borough, but they moved on when requested.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, is designed to secure the use of clean filling materials in upholstered articles, and during the year new Regulations were made under this Act, superseding earlier Regulations, and bringing up to date the standards of cleanliness required in relation to the several kinds of filling materials to which the Act applies.

The Act provides for the registration by the local authority of premises upon which filling materials are used in manufacturing articles of upholstery, and one such factory is registered with the Council. During the year eight samples of the materials used were taken for submission to the prescribed chemical and physical tests, and all were reported upon as satisfactory.

Under section 10 of the Act it is an offence for any person to offer for sale any new article which is upholstered or stuffed with filling material to which the Act applies and which is not clean as indicated by the prescribed tests. Three articles were purchased during the year and found to be satisfactory.

Chapter Eight

PEST CONTROL

Fly control - Verminous Infestation -
Rodent Control Service

Fly Control

The importance of fly control in preventing the spread of infection is widely appreciated, but fewer people take the regular steps needed to combat the fly menace. The best method of control is the elimination of breeding places, the screening of buildings and the discriminate use of insecticides. All rubbish should be stored in closed receptacles, and foods, whenever, possible, should be kept covered.

During summer months posters were distributed to the occupiers of business premises most likely to be affected; and Inspectors, visiting premises for any purpose and noting fly trouble, took the opportunity this presented to offer advice.

The litter problem is responsible for some of the trouble. In passages and yards in the town centre, not covered by public cleansing, litter lies around for long periods and in warmer weather much of this is attractive to flies.

Verminous Infestation

During the year 21 houses were treated for verminous, or suspected verminous infestation. Three of these were Corporation houses; and nine were houses due for demolition under Housing Act procedure.

Whenever a Corporation house is vacated or two Corporation tenants exchange houses, the premises are inspected. During, 1961, 255 such inspections were made, and infestation was found in one of these.

In several cases people produced insects at the Department for identification, but in none was there any public health problem.

Rodent Control Service

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, so far as this Act relates to rodent infestation. Routine measures were taken to ensure, as far as practicable, the freedom from infestation of all premises in their own occupation; owners and occupiers of infested properties were required to face up to their responsibilities under the Act, and a Rodent Control Service was maintained by the Corporation, available to householders free of charge and to others at a charge which covers the cost of treatment. The Act places on local authorities a specific duty to inspect their district for infestation, and for much of his time the senior rodent operative has been engaged on the discovery of infestations, and the organisation of treatments on 'block control' principles.

Table 24 gives statistics relating to the known incidence of infestation and to disinfection measures taken during 1961.

Table 24. Rodent Control Statistics

	Class of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling-houses*	Agricultural	Business and Industrial	Total
No. of properties in the town	32	8,013	32	1,312	9,389
No. of properties inspected as a result of -					
(a) Notification	7	102	2	32	143
(b) Survey under the Act	19	53	6	180	258
(c) Otherwise	0	31	0	76	107
No. of properties inspected and found to be infested by -					
(a) Rats: Major**	0	1	0	0	1
Minor	8	81	2	32	123
(b) Mice: Major**	0	0	0	0	0
Minor	2	34	0	24	60
No. of infested properties treated by local authority	10	113	2	56	181
No. of treatments carried out (including re-treatments)	19	119	2	71	211
No. of 'block control' schemes carried out					14

* Excluding houses combined with businesses

** Infestation estimated at more than 20 rodents

Chapter Nine

ADMINISTRATION AND RECORDS

Tabular Statement of Inspections made and Notices served - Establishment :

Nature and Number of Inspections made by the Corporation's
Public Health Inspectors and assistant staff during 1961.

<u>Nature of Inspections</u>	<u>Number made</u>
<u>Public Health Act, 1936</u>	
Regulated Premises Inspections:	
Moveable dwellings and sites	37
Offensive Trades	61
Workplaces, not factories	26
Statutory Nuisance Inspections:	
Dwellinghouse defects	302
Other	24
Verminous Infestation Inspections (including visits to prospective tenants of Corporation houses, and in the case of exchanges)	275
Infectious Diseases, etc., Enquiries	32
General Sanitation and Drainage Inspections:	
Dwellinghouse defects	129
Other	29
Water supplies:	
Sampling - Public supplies	59
Swimming bath waters, etc.	106
Refuse Collection and Disposal:	
Enquiries and Inspections	27
<u>Clean Air Act, 1956</u>	
Atmospheric Pollution:	
Industrial smoke observations	19
Inspection of boiler plant	33
Smoke Control Area inspections and enquiries	854
<u>Factories Acts, 1937 - 1959</u>	
Inspections for welfare Provisions:	
Factories	36
Other works (building sites)	4
Outworkers' premises	7
<u>Shops Act, 1950</u>	
Shops inspected for Welfare Provisions	39
<u>Housing Acts and Rent Act, 1957</u>	
Housing Conditions:	
Inspections for housing defects and of works in progress (excluding Public Health Act inspections)	147
Inspections made in connection with Certificates of Disrepair	5

Nature of InspectionsNumber made

Overcrowding:	
Case investigations	5
Improvement Grant Inspections and Enquiries	58
Miscellaneous housing enquiries	74

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Meat Inspections:	
Visits to Public Slaughterhouse for meat inspection	569
Other inspections	45
Number of carcasses examined	11,108

Milk Supplies:	
Investigations under Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959	6
Sampling: Milk	17
Milk Containers	46

Ice-Cream:	
Investigations under Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations	12

Other Foods:	
Visits to shops, etc. for food inspection and sampling	162

Food Hygiene Inspections:	
Pasteurising plant and dairies	10
Premises under Food Hygiene Regulations	148
Other investigations under Food Hygiene Regulations	47
Investigations under Food Handling Byelaws	193

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Inspection of premises for infestation, proofing, etc. (Mainly by senior Rodent Operative)	656
Inspections under Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks Regulations	8

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Sampling and inspection of records	10
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Pet Animals Act, 1951

Inspection of premises and investigations following application for licences	4
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West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951

Hairdressers' premises	36
Food Hawkers	47

Number of Notices Served and the Result of Service

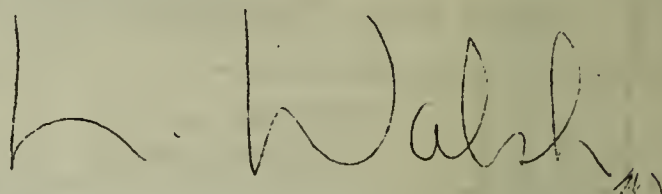
Act or Section under which or, in the case of informal notices, preliminary to which, notice was served	No. of Informal Notices					No. of Statutory Notices						
	(a) Outstanding from 1960	(b) Served in 1961	(c) Total of these	(d) Complied with	Not complied with		(g) Outstanding from 1960	(h) Served in 1961	(i) Total of these	(j) Complied with	(k) Work done by L.A.	(l) Outstanding at end of 1961
					(e) Statutory notice served in 1961	(f) Outstanding at end of 1961						
Public Health Act, 1936: (a) Housing Defects - Section 39, 40, 44 and 45 " 93 (b) Other - Section 39 " 75 " 83 " 83 W.R.C.C. (C.P.) Act, 1951, Section 53 Shops Act, 1950 Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949: Section 4 " 6	6 12	13 56	19 68	16 41		3 27	2	1	3	3		
		7 12 21 1	7 12 21 1	7 12 21		1		1	1	2		1
		1	1		1							
	5	66 7	71 7	66 5		5 2						
Totals	23	184	207	168	1	38	2	4	6	5		1

Establishment

Mr. D. Morgan, Public Health Inspector, left your service in August, 1960, and despite repeated attempts to fill the vacancy, no applicant could be found. In January, 1961, the Health Committee considered the possibility of engaging a suitable person with building qualifications to undertake routine smoke control area inspections. In March, Mr. John Whale was appointed to the newly created post of Technical Assistant (Smoke Control) since which time he has fully justified his appointment. To my Deputy, Mr. S.C.L. Wilson, and all members of the Staff I would express appreciation of their work.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. Walsh', with a stylized, flowing script.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Municipal Offices,
Pontefract.

July, 1962.

